

Saved by Selfies?

Practice using *less* and *fewer* while learning about an adorable social media star.

About the Story

Learning Objective: to identify when to use *less* and *fewer*

Featured Skill: grammar, usage, and mechanics

Standards:

The article and its suite of support materials support these Common Core Anchor Standards: L.1

For more standards information—including TEKS—go to Scope Online.

SCOPE
May 2024

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Less or Fewer?

Use *less* with things that can't be counted individually, so in *My front yard looks like there are fewer flowers than when I was a kid*, *fewer* is correct. *There are fewer flowers than when I was a kid* is also correct. *There are fewer flowers than when I was a kid* is also correct.

Directions: Circle the correct word in each boxed pair.

Adorable Quokka

With all the people, visitors, and babies and their posing for the camera, competition for the title of "Australia's Most Adorable Star" is fierce. The winner, however, might just be the quokka (pronounced "kwa"). About the size of a house cat, the quokka is a marsupial, like the kangaroo. Quokkas were once common in southwestern Australia, but habitat loss, climate change, and invasive predators such as foxes and feral cats have put these animals in danger. Today, only about 10,000 quokkas remain on Earth. Most live on Rottnest Island, about 19 miles off Australia's southwest coast.

Selfie Controversy

In 2013, an online newspaper posted photos of a quokka that appeared to be smiling, calling it "the happiest animal in the world." Before long, thousands of visitors were coming to Rottnest, many for one reason: to take a selfie with a quokka. Some experts worried that all the selfie seekers would harm the quokkas. If quokkas can become stressed when humans get too close, then the increased tourism led to quokkas getting their stress levels up to human levels. In addition to being extremely shy animals, getting their stress levels up to human levels is bad for their health. Today, only about 10,000 quokkas remain on Earth. Most live on Rottnest Island, about 19 miles off Australia's southwest coast.

Help for Quokkas

Despite controversy, Rottnest's quokkas seem to be doing well. Signs now remind tourists not to feed or touch the quokkas, so hopefully the animals are getting less stress from humans and enjoying a life more peaceful than before. However, there are now more than 100,000 quokkas on Rottnest. As a result, visitors of people know that these funny creatures are endangered and want to help them. Conservation groups are now working hard to protect quokkas—all happy news for the happiest animals in the world!

Your Teaching Package

Find your full suite of support materials at scope.scholastic.com.

Video:

- Grammar Hack: Less or Fewer?

Audio:

- Text-to-speech

Activities to print, project, or share digitally:

- Less or Fewer? Anchor Chart and Practice Activity
- In-Magazine Activity: Interactive Version

Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

1. Prepare to Read (1 minute)

Set a Purpose for Reading

- Direct students' attention to the hint box and directions on page 2 or at the top of the digital story page. Read each aloud.

2. Read and Discuss (5 minutes)

- Have students read the three boxes of text independently or with a partner, circling the correct word in each bolded word pair. Optionally, share the interactive version of this article, which has dropdown menus. Then discuss the answers.
- In your Resources tab, find an anchor chart and a skill-reinforcement activity called **Less or Fewer?** This activity is also available as a Google Slideshow for projecting.

3. Write (2 minutes)

- Have students practice using this grammar skill in context. Project this Exit Ticket prompt on your board for students to respond to on a sticky note before they leave class:

Choose a supermarket item from the list below. Write a sentence that contains that item and the word *less* or *fewer*.

- bananas
- soda
- gum
- rice
- eggs
- chips